(d) No comprehensive Survey has been conducted for assessing the number of mentally handicapped persons in the country. However, a Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991, regarding children between 1 & 14 years of age, estimates that about 3% of the estimated child population has delayed mental development. Estimates made by some other Organisations suggest that 2-2.5% of the estimated population suffers from mental retardation.

Dispute between CIL and Gujarat Electricity Board over supply of Coal

938. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. is not willing to reintroduce the earlier practice of joint sampling of coal at power station end;

(b) whether there is any dispute between the CIL and Gujarat Electricity Board regarding receipt of coal;

(c) if so, the details of amount involved in such disputes vis-a-vis the details of amount disputed by the GEB; and

(d) whether there is any increase in the amount involved in such disputes after the joint sampling at power station end by the CIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) In keeping with World-wide commercial practice, the loading end is the logical one for ascertaining the quality and quantity of coal despatches to consumers. This is also in accordance with the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.

(b) and (c) There have been claims from Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) regarding coal supplies from the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. These claims have since been settled through mutual discussion between GEB and the coal companies.

(d) In view of the settlement arrived at, there has not been further claim or dispute on this account.

Purchase of Coal by SAIL

939. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the undertakings from whom Steel Authority of India Limited has been presently purchasing the coal every year alongwith the details of rate per tonne;

(b) whether it is a fact that SAIL has not been getting good quality coal and as a result, the quality of the by-products is also getting affected;

(c) whether SAIL has informed the concerned department in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to see that good quality coal is supplied to the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) SAIL is purchasing coking coal and boiler coal from Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries. In addition low ash coking coal is also being imported.

SAIL has not been getting desired quality of indigenous coking coal. This has affected plant operations including the bye-products. The quantity of coking coal purchased during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (Apr.-Oct'96) is as follows:—

1995-96	9.00 million tonnes
April-October'96	4.73 million tonnes

The rates per tonne during the above period are as follows:—

Rs. per tonne

	1995-96	w.e.f. 1/4/96	w.e.f. 20/10/96
BCCL	1467.51*	1685	1888
CCL	1342.84	1500	1664
WCL	1320.00	1505	1677

*Weighted average.

Efforts are made to off-set the high ash of indigenous coking coal by using low ash superior quality imported coking coal. The coal companies are regularly apprised about the poor quality of indigenous coal. There is also constant interaction between SAIL and CIL on issues related to quality.